

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

- Amendments -

Applicant respectfully requests that the pending claims be amended as indicated in the accompanying amended page(s), in which:

- Claims 1 and 34 are amended.

Claims 1-8, 10-16, 18 - 20, 21-31, and 32 - 34 remain pending. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

- Remarks -

35 USC §103(a)

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his detailed comments as provided in the Response to Arguments section of the instant Office Action. In view of the Examiner's comments, Applicant amends claims 1 and 34 to better define the intention of the term "substantially planar".

Claim 1 and 34 as amended recite instead that the paper feed mechanism, the printhead, and the exit slot define --*an effectively planar paper feed path through the printer from the paper feed mechanism through to the exit*--. Applicant respectfully submits that such an amendment distinguishes over the Examiner's interpretation of "substantially planar" with respect to Akira et al. (JP 2001-130090).

Applicant believes that the J-type paper carrying path of Akira et al. cannot reasonably be construed as being effectively planar from the paper feed mechanism through to the exit.

The Examiner's further consideration of claims 1 and 34, and the claims dependent therefrom, is earnestly sought. Applicant looks forward to word of further official communication in due course.

Very respectfully,



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